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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR  
1 9 5 9

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Medical Officer of Health.

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# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Wardle Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Mortality of your district during 1959.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

(i) Area in Acres	3,193
(ii) Population 1951 Census	4,893
Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population, 1958	4,520
(iii) Number of inhabited houses at end of 1957, according to the rate book	1,450
(iv) Rateable value	£ 57,317
(v) Sum represented by a penny rate	233
(vi) <u>Industries</u> - The chief industries carried out in the area are:- cotton and woollen manufacturing, silk weaving, wallpaper printing, dairy farming and light engineering.	
(vii) <u>Unemployment</u> - There was no unemployment worthy of mention during the year.	

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	63	29	34
Illegitimate	3	3	-
STILL BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-
DEATHS OF INFANTS:			
Under 1 year of age:			
Legitimate	1	1	-
Under 4 weeks of age:			
Legitimate	1	1	-

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Crude	14.7
Adjusted	13.4

Still Births:-

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births 43.5

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Deaths	59	27	32

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Crude	13.2
Adjusted	9.2

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 15.2

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births Nil

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 15.2

Death from Cancer (all ages) 12

Death from Measles (all ages) 0

Death from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 0

	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Rate of Death under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births
Year 1958	13.1	17.3	50.8	48.4
" 1959	13.4	14.7	15.2	43.5
Change	+ 0.3	- 2.6	- 35.6	- 4.9



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Smallpox

No cases of Smallpox occurred in 1959.

Scarlet Fever

One case of Scarlet Fever was reported during the year.

Diphtheria

Again there were no cases.

Enteric Fever

No cases.

Whooping Cough

No cases.

Measles

10 cases of measles reported.

Puerperal Pyrexia

One case was notified.

Erysipelas

No case to report.

Tuberculosis

None.

Anthrax

No cases.

Poliomyelitis

None.

Sonne Dysentery

None.

TABLE I

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1959 (including cases notified from Birch Hill)

	Total cases at all ages	Total cases notified					Total Deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital from District.	Death in Hospital of persons belonging to District.	
		Years								
		0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65 & over	
Smallpox.....	0									
Scarlet Fever.....	1			1						
Diphtheria (including membranous croup).....	0									
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid).....	0									
Paratyphoid Fever.....	0									
Measles (excluding Rubella).....	10		2	4	4					
Whooping Cough.....	0									
Acute Pneumonia.....	0									
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1									
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	0						1			
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0									
Acute Polio-Encephalitis.....	0									
Acute Encephalitis.....	0									
Lethargia.....	0									
Dysentery.....	0									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	0									
Erysipelas.....	0									
Malaria.....	0									
Food Poisoning.....	0									
Anthrax.....	0									
Meningococcal Infection.....	0									
Tuberculosis Respiratory.....	0									
Dysentery Sonne.....	0									
	12	2	4	5	-	-	1	-	-	-

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED in 1959, apart from Tuberculosis were 12 as compared with 2 in 1958. A comparative table is shown below:-

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0
Measles	1	10
Whooping Cough	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	2	12
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1959:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Cancer	6	6
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	1	9
Heart Diseases	9	11
Diseases of circulatory system	1	0
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	2	0
Influenza	1	1
Suicide	1	0
Congenital Malformation	1	0
Motor Accidents	2	0
Accidents (other)	1	1
Other ill defined diseases	1	3
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	27	32
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>



I am chiefly indebted for the information regarding un-notifiable diseases, to the returns of sickness in schools supplied to me by the Schools Attendance Officer.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given to me by Mr. P. Robinson, Mr. Gration and Mr. W. Oldham.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours obediently,

DONALD G. MACGILL,

Medical Officer of Health.



REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1959

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

For the year 1959 I have to report as follows:-

GENERAL SURVEY.

The sewers throughout the area have been sufficient at all times and again I can report a trouble-free year as far as the two syphons in Dyehouse Lane are concerned. The Ejector caused no trouble.

The sewers were treated for rats twice during the year and post-baiting showed no infestation.

Infectious Diseases.

One disinfection was carried out during the year.

House Refuse.

House refuse was removed on 39 occasions during the year, and disposed of by controlled tipping at Ashbrook. Nightsoil from pails is also collected in a tank and poured into the sewer. No rat or fly infestation has occurred which has caused complaint.

Slaughterhouses.

4 slaughterhouses are now licensed, and three are used regularly without complaint.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE  
OR IN PART

	Cattle exclud- ing cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed	256	752	5	2,510	419	-
Number inspected	256	752	5	2,269	419	-
All diseases except Tuber- culosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	1	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	32	-	72	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	1.5%	4.2%	-	3%	0.20%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	46	-	-	1	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.0%	6%	-	-	0.60%	-
<u>Cysticercosis:-</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The standard of animals slaughtered was good and the incidence of disease was reasonable.



## Shops

Meat shops continue to maintain good standard and on the whole the small house and shop traders too keep a good standard. Two bakehouses went out of existence. The one remaining is very well ordered.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply

Only 3% of the houses in the district have to rely on wells or springs for their water supply. The remaining 97% have a piped supply which is sufficient and suitable for all domestic purposes.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extensions during the year and the properties still unsewered are either outlying or low lying and are unconnected for economical or engineering reasons.

### Rivers and Streams.

The River Roch continues to be polluted. The improvement noted last year has been maintained. Clough House brook is now very good, after tannery effluent was taken into sewer. Ashbrook has now improved as effluent from Messrs. Sandifords, Wasp Mill, is now turned into the sewers.

### Closet Accommodation.

The contribution payable by the Council as an inducement to owners to convert obsolete closets to fresh water flush type is £8 for each pail closet and £4 for each waste water closet.

### Smoke Abatement.

3 observations were taken during the year and none exceeded three minutes black smoke emission.

### Schools.

The three schools in the district are maintained in good order.



## Housing.

No Council houses were built in 1959. One void house was closed under the Housing Acts.

TABLE II

### Closet Accommodation

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1930</u>
Privy Middens	28	28	55
No. of closets attached to Middens	24	24	55
No. of pail closets	62	62	156
No. of dry ashpits	4	4	9
No. of ashbins	1,340	1,325	473
No. of houses on water carriage system	1,036	1,029	444

During the year there were conversions as follows:-  
3 to fresh water flush closet from waste water closet.

TABLE III

Inspections, 1959

	<u>Visits or</u> <u>Inspections</u>	<u>Defects</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Housing	60	20	16
Factories	36	0	0
Food Premises	39	0	0
Slaughterhouses	439	0	0
Bakehouses	2	0	0
Nuisance & others	<u>235</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>137</u>
	<u>811</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>153</u>

I wish to place on record my appreciation for the help of Mr. E.K. Gration and Mr. P. Robinson, Clerks of the Council during 1959, and the staff, for the ready and willing help on all occasions.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

W. OLDHAM,

Public Health Inspector.

TABLE IV

List of Acts and Sections  
thereof adopted by the Wardle Urban  
District Council

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part III).  
Adopted 15th May, 1891.
2. Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.  
Adopted 6th April, 1899.
3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Parts II  
and III (excepting S.48) IV and V. Operative  
from 5th October, 1911.
4. Private Street Works Act, 1892 Operative from  
5th October, 1911.
5. Notification of Births Act, 1907. Operative from  
13th October, 1914.
6. Public Health Act, 1925 (Parts II, III and IV).  
Operative from 31st January, 1927.
7. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923.  
Adopted 2nd August, 1934.
8. Local Government and other Officers Superannuation  
Act, 1922. Adopted 1st April, 1938.
9. Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act,  
1951, Sections 13 and 14. Adopted 20th November,  
1951.
10. Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14. 24th  
November, 1951.
11. Clean Air Act, 1956. Section 24. August, 1957.

OBSERVATIONS AS TO THEIR ADMINISTRATION:- Good.